

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 11115

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TAGS: ENRG PFOR OCON UN VE

SUBJ: POSSIBLE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE IN CONFRONTING US AND
OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN A "REPRESENTATIVE FORUM"

REF: CARACAS 11071

1. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR APPROACHED ME THE OTHER NIGHT AT A DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION TO SAY HE HAD BEEN SPEAKING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY AFFAIRS, AMBASSADOR DIAZ GONZALEZ, AND HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT VENEZUELA MIGHT PROPOSE THAT A LARGE CONFERENCE OF THE LDC'S, THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, AND, IN GENERAL, OIL PRODUCERS VS. OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES SHOULD MEET UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN TO CONSIDER SUCH CHARGES AS THOSE RECENTLY MADE BY PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND HIS PREVIOUS OPEN LETTER OF SEP 19 ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT FORD. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD VIEW SUCH A MEETING WITH UTMOST MISGIVING BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY THE VOTE WOULD BE AUTOMATICALLY AGAINST " THE HAVES" IN FAVOR OF THE " HAVE NOTS." ALTHOUGH HE WAS SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT IN HIS OPINION IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST TO GO ALONG WITH GISCARD'S INITIATIVE FOR A MORE CONTROLLED AND CONTROLLABLE MEETING OF THE OIL PRODUCERS AND THE OIL CONSUMER NATIONS.

2. COMMENT: DIAZ GONZALEZ HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS DIPLOMATIC
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CAREER WITH THE UN, AND IT IS THEREFORE NOT SURPRISING

THAT HE SHOULD SUGGEST SUCH A FORUM FOR A CONFRONTATION. HOWEVER,
ON THE BASIS OF THE UNSATISFACTORY RESULTS OF LAST APRIL'S SPECIAL
GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE DISSATISFACTION EXPRESSED TO ME BY THE
POWERFUL MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
PEREZ GUERRERO, OVER THE OUTCOME OF THAT ASSEMBLY, I AM INCLINED
TO WONDER IF IN FACT THE GOV WOULD PUSH FOR AN OVER-ALL UN
CONFERENCE. ON THE OTHER HAND, PRESIDENT PEREZ COULD BE ASSURED OF
A FAVORABLE VOTE FOR EVEN SOME OF HIS WILDEST PROPOSALS AND MIGHT
IN FACT SEEK SUCH A FORUM, UNREPRESENTATIVE THOUGH IT WOULD BE,
AS AN APPROPRIATE PLACE IN WHICH TO MAKE ANOTHER DENUNCIATORY
SPEECH. CERTAINLY IF HE OR FONMIN SCHACHT, WHO IN HIS SPEECH
YESTERDAY AT QUITO WENT DELIBERATELY OUT OF HIS WAY TO BE RUDE TO
THE US, SHOULD SEEK THE COUNSEL OF AMBASSADOR DIAZ GONZALEZ,
WHO HAS IN THE PAST BEEN A THORN IN OUR SIDE AT THE UN, WE
ARE PROBABLY IN FOR MORE THAN AN UNPLEASANT HALF HOUR.
MCCLINTOCK

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